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### LIGHT ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP

In Alpine valleys, they who watch for dawn  
Look never to the east; but fix their eyes  
On loftier mountain peaks of snow,  
Which rise  
To west or south,  
Before the happy morn  
Has sent one ray of kindling red to warn  
The sleeping clouds along the eastern skies  
That it is near—flushing in glad surprise,  
These royal hills, for royal watchmen born,  
Discover that God's great new day begins,  
And shedding from their sacred brows a light  
Prophetic, wake the valley from its night.

Such mystic light as this a great soul wins,  
Who overlooks earth's wall of griefs and sins,  
And steadfast, always gazing on the white,  
Great throne of God, can call aloud with deep,  
Pure voice of truth, to waken them who sleep.

HELEN HUNT JACKSON.

### MISS NETTIE M. RICKS.

Miss Nettie Ricks was born in Cleveland, O., and in the public schools of that city received her early training.



MISS NETTIE M. RICKS.

At the age of fifteen life began to have a larger meaning for her than heretofore, and her aims developed rapidly within her inner consciousness.

Unfolding her plans to a devoted mother to whom must be given all credit and praise for her future success, the young girl found that they did not coincide with that mother's ideas since their execution would require absence from home and life among strangers at this early period.

Her great desire was for an education that would fit her for a successful life and this could not be obtained without numerous struggles and sacrifices. Succeeding finally in entering Oberlin College she felt that at last her ambitions were to be realized, but a protracted illness broke into this arrangement.

On recovery, through the efforts of the Rev. Sterling Brown, of Washington, she entered the Lucy Webb Hayes Deaconess School. This offered a two years' normal course and Miss Ricks was the first young lady of color admitted.

The course included normal studies, industrial and kindergarten work in the

morning, with the afternoons devoted to work among the poor, and the afflicted, to taking a little sunshine into the life of the distressed, to teaching them how they might live better, how to observe hygienic rules, and be helpful even in the midst of personal suffering.

Overtaxing her strength, Miss Ricks was once more compelled to return to her home and recuperate. In 1894 she entered Freedmen's Hospital, Washington, with the pioneer class that graduated under that eminent surgeon, Dr. Daniel Williams. She had asked admission to the training class of one of the Cleveland hospitals, but the usual refusal met her request; however, in 1896 she returned to the city with a diploma from a reputable school and proof that a colored woman could be a trained nurse and as competent as her Anglo-Saxon sister, and ere long received regular employment from the Cleveland physicians. Miss Ricks worked very successfully in the capacity of private nurse for nearly seven years, but realizing that there were other fields in which the professional nurse might gain renown, determined to test institutional work, and after going through the ordeal of the flames at Jacksonville, Fla., accepted an offer to take charge of Douglass Hospital, Kansas City, Kans. During the time spent there Miss Ricks did many things to improve the condition and service of the hospital and by her energy and zeal in all good work greatly endeared herself to the citizens of both Kansas and Missouri. With sadness they heard of her call to Tuskegee to accept a similar position, but believing that it was in all probability, to be her best interest to accept bade her a sincere Godspeed.

At Tuskegee, as elsewhere, Miss Ricks has met with success, and her early efforts, her struggles in the midst of obstacles that would have caused some to fall by the wayside, should prove a valuable lesson to many of our young people today. The backbone of success is patient perseverance.

### ST. LOUIS' KINDERGARTENS.

HELENE ABBOTT-SAYRE.

"There are some deeds so grand,  
That their mighty doers stand  
Ennobled in a moment more than  
Kings."

These words force themselves upon us as we look back twenty years and realize the magnificent spirit that promoted and supported the opening of the Kindergarten for colored children.

That morning there were gathered together true disciples of our leader—Friedrich Froebel, whose beautiful doctrine of love is so perfectly demonstrated in his teachings.

Long before the day of opening, it had been the desire of Miss Blow to establish kindergartens for the benefit of colored children.

To her all childhood appealed. To her all children had minds, feelings, souls that could be influenced and directed to the development of character—the ennobling of manhood. Associated with her in this desire was Mrs. Hubbard, whose songs and games touched within the hearts of these little children a responsive chord and today these same children illustrate the affinity of pure souls.

The kindergarten was opened with Miss Laura Fisher (now supervisor of Boston kindergartens) as director. Miss Pavey, of Shield's Kindergarten, was assistant in the morning.

In the afternoon Miss Pavey acted as director; her salary as assistant being supplemented by a donation of \$100, the gift of Mrs. Stratton, one of the pioneer propagators of kindergarten work. The two volunteers were colored women. Miss Brown, who is now an assistant in the same school, (the Dumas) and has since become Mrs. McLean. The other a Mrs. Hopson. There came to that Kindergarten on certain days of the week to play for the songs and

games, Miss Jessie McCulloch and Miss Mary McCulloch, our own dear superior.

That morning the little children came to the number of fifty. There to receive them besides the kindergartens were Mrs. H. Hitchcock and Mrs. Lackland.

There were no chairs or tables but wonderful are the resources of a true kindergartner. Nothing daunted, they gathered the children on the circle and began the opening exercises. The little sympathetic talk created a proper spirit and understanding for the prayer, after which some simple finger songs were taught, and there we will leave them.

Ten years later the second kindergarten was opened by Miss Alice Thomas at the L'Onverture school, assisted by Miss Adelia Keuntz, Miss Emma Clare and Miss Dora Smetzer.

Today tells the story as to whether it was worth while—as to whether these noble women did God's service in feeding His lambs. That one kindergarten is now a family of eight.

Those two volunteers are numbered with over fifty earnest and sincere women, who are now engaged in this work for their own race.

Those fifty little children, now men and women, can see each day over 600 going just as they did twenty years ago, with glowing hearts and glistening eyes to where love calls them.

We have today a training class for colored students under the supervision of a woman of the race, Mrs. Haydee Campbell. These colored students receive exactly the same training as the white students. We have sent two young ladies from this training class out to establish this work in Kansas City—Miss Lelia Warwick and Miss Ida Abbott. Another graduate of this class Miss Nellie Grant, has taken charge of the kindergarten department of Tuskegee Institute Alabama.

It is a wonderful harvest and it seems to me as I drop the curtain that a still small voice must have come to some of these noble women, who fought the first fight against narrowness and prejudice, saying,

"Go, thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things I will make thee ruler over many."

In Kansas City, Kas., a thousand or more "Pingree patches" have been given over to the children for the summer months and vegetable, rather than flower gardens will be cultivated by the little folks.

The attendance at the special meeting was excellent, the addresses, and discussion of the same first class. Among those who participated, and contributed to the success of the undertaking were Rev. Scott, Professors Foster, Bowser, Dawley, Cook, Vernon, Mesdames Crews, Jones and Nix.

The Peace Meeting held by the Kansas City branch of the National Association, was in every sense eminently successful, and we hope to hear equally encouraging reports from other centres. The clergy of the A. M. E., Baptist and Episcopal churches, co-operated by preaching sermons setting forth the doctrine of "Peace on earth."

The resolutions sent out by Mrs. Sewall, president of the International Council of Women, and approved by the Council of Women of the United States, were read and adopted.

The keynote of these resolutions, is the "Universal Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man." No race has greater cause to desire the speedy application of this principle than our own.

Two important features of the mammoth edition of the Sunday Los Angeles Herald and Illustrated Magazine, of May 4, are, on page 6 of the Illustrated Magazine, "A Biographical Sketch of Mrs. Ida Wells-Barnett, Secretary of National Afro-American Council," and page 7 of the same magazine, "The National Association of Colored Women."

The great event in Kansas City of the week ending May 10th, was the rendition at the Century theatre of the play "Caprice," with Miss Victoria Overall as leading lady, ably supported by Mr. Richard B. Harrison, of Chicago, Mr. Barnes, of Kansas City, and others. Miss Overall deserves much credit for her perseverance, pluck and hard work, and Kansas Cityans are justly very proud of her.

### WHEN LEARNING

#### LEARN THE BEST.

#### Dress Making School.

MRS. L. R. Clark, principal of the Livingston School of Dress Making, a No. 1439 W Street Northwest Washington, has a fine school, and we advise all those who wish to learn this valuable trade to go to her school. She is a fine teacher and a credit to her race. Her terms are reasonable, and all her scholars who have graduated from her school are making a success as dress makers.

She has the only school of its kind in the city. The improved French drafting machine is the most wonderful achievement of Mathematical skill for cutting ladies' and children's garments. It is not difficult to learn, as it does not require any complicated figuring.

Special lessons given in the Art of Ladies' Tailoring, also in blending colors. Young men are taught Ladies' Tailoring at this school.

Class for young men from 2:30 to 5:30 p. m. Thursday 9:30 to 1:30 a. m. Saturdays.

For information call at the school.

Persons desiring to learn the art of making altering and trimming hats are taught the same while taking the course in dress-making. This, however, is paid for independent of dress-making. Mrs. M. Underdown of Cincinnati, who is a graduate of Armour Institute of Chicago, will instruct in this branch of the work.

MRS. L. R. CLARKE,  
Principal.

### THE KEYSTONE PARK.

The Keystone Park, Suitland, Md., will be open and ready for business June 1st. A commodious house with large and improved premises, plenty of fresh water with garden and chickens where a number of select couples or people can be accommodated. Everything is strictly first-class. The Route 40 Cars run to the new Pennsylvania ave., bridge and for those who drive, follow the straight road and watch the signs. Private parties will be met at the bridge conveyances. For those who desire to spend the heated term arrangements will be made for trips morning and evening.

For further information apply at 443 1st st., S. W.

### Lost Relative

WANTED—To know the whereabouts of David Walker, who is a sailor by occupation and lives or did in Boston, Mass., up until a few years ago. He was an active Mason and belonged to the Blue Lodge No. 4 or 5. The colored Masons in Boston will please make inquiries. Information sent to William Walker, 131 First St. S. W., Washington, D. C. will be gratefully received.

### DRESS MAKING ACADEMY.

The de Lam Orton Famous French Perfection Tailor System. Mme J. A. Smallwood, Sole Agent 1818 Madison street, northwest, Morning class from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. Afternoon class 2 to 5 p. m. daily. Evenings from 7:30 to 10 o'clock. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, dress-makers and ladies who wish to do their own dressmaking.

WANTED—To learn the wonderful De Lam Orton French Perfection Tailor System. Seamless Basques without one inch of visible seam, in lining or goods, not even on the shoulder. Successful dressmaking requires as much earnest progressive study as successful work in any of the professions. No detail is too small to be looked after. We teach you to make dresses with or without seam and guarantee perfect fits, and complete your course with a diploma.

Pupils can enter at any time.

### Business Opportunity.

WANTED—a good man to lease a Park in easy access to the city on suburban car line. Water, shade, pavilion and all modern conveniences. Address M, care Colored American Office.

### Wanted Rooms.

If you have a spare room that you would like to rent to desirable parties, advertise them in The Colored American.

WANTED—A gentleman in the department desires room and board in a first class private family. Is willing to pay first rate for a home-like place. Address B, care this office.

### Improve the Hair and Complexion.

Singleton's Pharmacy 20 and E carries a full line of Ozone preparations with his toilet articles and sundries. See display this week.

### COTTAGES FOR SALE.

Four desirable Cottages on Jefferson Street, between Washington and La Fayette Streets in the very best locality, newly painted and papered all the latest improvements on easy terms. For further particulars address J. Harry Hughes Cape May, N. J.

Madre's Park situated on the Eckington and Suburban Line at the corner of 7th and Albany Streets has been refitted and is now for rent for parties, garden parties, etc. This park has a beautiful pavilion 50 by 50, wings, excellent water and everything necessary to make it a desirable pleasure resort. For further information call or address M. A. D. Madre, Madre's Park, 7th and Albany Streets, Eckington, D. C.

### Upperville, Virginia.

Mrs. Virginia Pinkett, Upperville, Va., Farquar County, desires to take a number of first class summer boarders. Upperville is located in a beautiful part of Virginia and arrangements have been already made to give first class service to a limited number of persons who desire to spend a few weeks in the summer. Rates are reasonable and the Villa is located close to the Blue Ridge Mountains with splendid water, etc. For further information address Mrs. Virginia Pinkett, Upperville, Farquar County, Va.